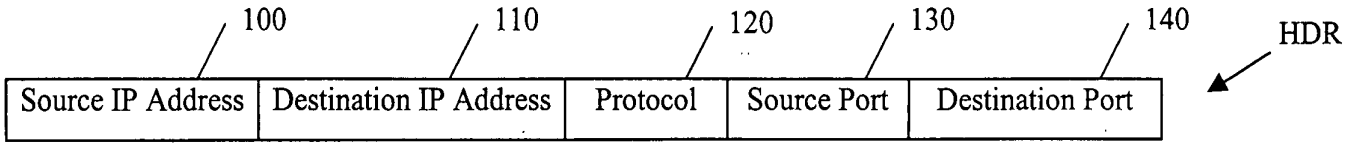

Fig. 1

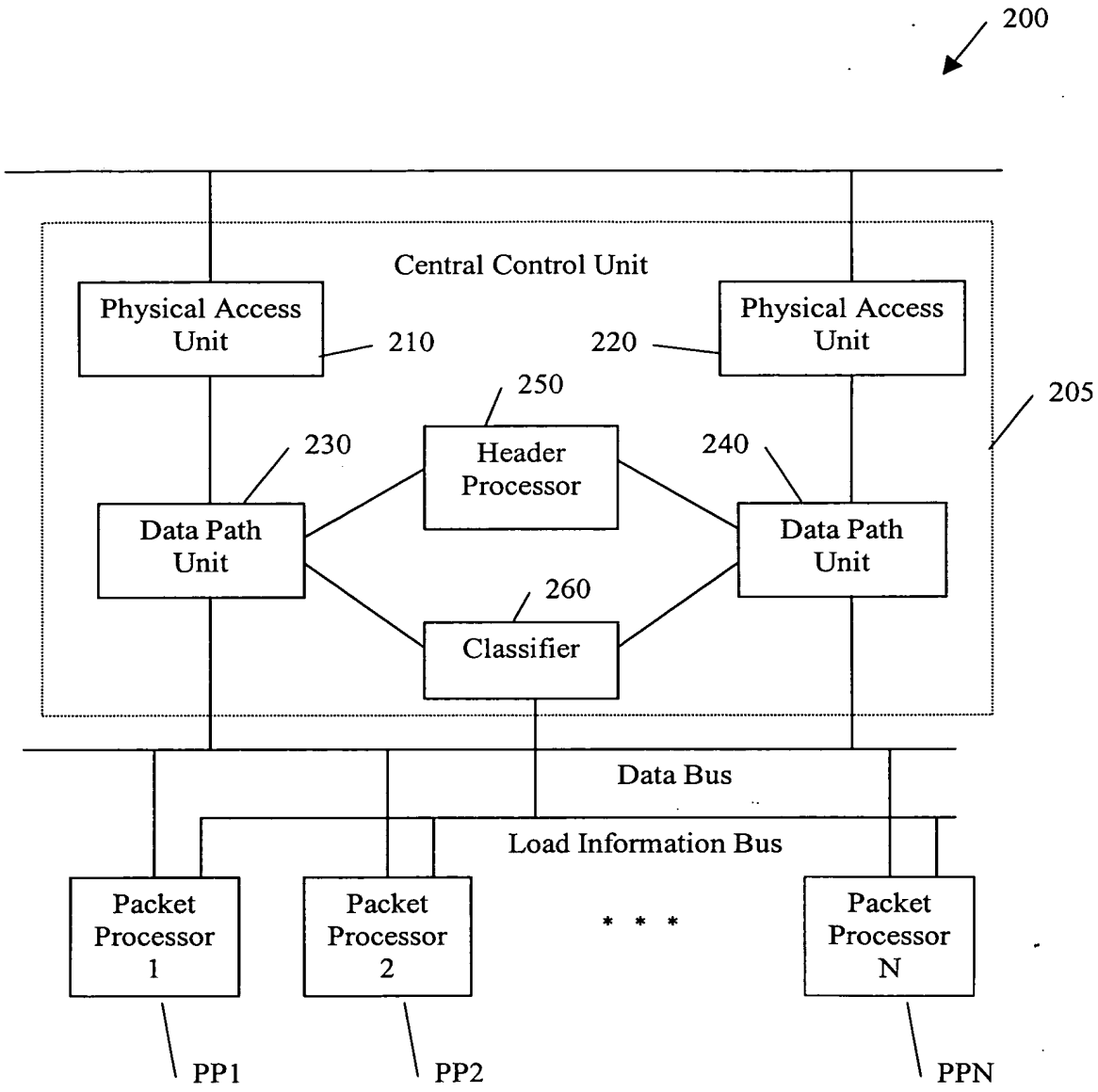
200
Central Control Unit
Physical Access Unit
210
220
Physical Access Unit
250
205
230
Header Processor
240
Data Path Unit
Data Path Unit
260
Classifier
Data Bus
Load Information Bus
Packet Processor 1
Packet Processor 2
* * *
Packet Processor N
PP1
PP2
PPN

Fig. 2

Processing Load Information	Processing Load	Action
00	Unavailable	Assign no new process flows to processor.
01	Heavily Loaded	Assign only a few more new process flows to processor.
10	Moderately Loaded	Assign new process flows to processor occasionally.
11	Lightly Loaded	Assign new process flows to processor as necessary.

Fig. 3

Packet Processor	Processing Load Information	Round One	Round Two	Round Three	Round Four
Processor PP1	11	Assign	Assign	Assign	Assign
Processor PP2	10	X	Assign	X	Assign
Processor PP3	01	X	X	Assign	X
Processor PP4	01	X	X	Assign	X
Processor PP5	00	X	X	X	X
Processor PP6	11	Assign	Assign	Assign	Assign
Processor PP7	10	X	Assign	X	Assign
Processor PP8	01	X	X	Assign	X

Fig. 4

Processing Load Percentage	Processing Load	Action
75% to 100%	Unavailable	Assign no new process flows to processor.
50% to 74%	Heavily Loaded	Assign only a few more new process flows to processor.
25% to 49%	Moderately Loaded	Assign new process flows to processor occasionally.
0% to 24%	Lightly Loaded	Assign new process flows to processor as necessary.

Fig. 5

Idle Time	Processing Load	Action
Less Than Time Period A	Unavailable	Assign no new process flows to processor.
Greater Than Time Period A And Less Than Time Period B	Heavily Loaded	Assign only a few more new process flows to processor.
Greater Than Time Period B And Less Than Time Period C	Moderately Loaded	Assign new process flows to processor occasionally.
Greater Than Time Period C	Lightly Loaded	Assign new process flows to processor as necessary.

Fig. 6

Data Rate At Which Data Supplied To Processor	Processing Load	Action
Greater Than Data Rate A	Unavailable	Assign no new process flows to processor.
Less Than Data Rate A And Greater Than Data Rate B	Heavily Loaded	Assign only a few more new process flows to processor.
Less Than Data Rate B And Greater Than Data Rate C	Moderately Loaded	Assign new process flows to processor occasionally.
Less Than Data Rate C	Lightly Loaded	Assign new process flows to processor as necessary.

Fig. 7